

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please **amend** paragraph [0182] on page 64 as follows:

b' [00182] To determine whether transplanted human hepatocytes retained liver-specific transcription, the presence of human albumin mRNA was evaluated by RT-PCR after extraction according to the method of Chomczynski (1987, Anal. Biochem. 162:156-159), using the following primers:

sense 5'-CCTTGGTGTTGATTGCCTTGCTC-3' (SEQ ID NO:4);

antisense 5'-CATCACATCAACCTCTGGTCTCACC-3' (SEQ ID NO:5);

and the presence of rat albumin mRNA was evaluated using the primers:

sense 5'-CGGTTTAGGGACTTAGGAGAACAGC (SEQ ID NO:7); and antisense 5'-

ATAGTGTCCCAGAAAGCTGGTAGGG-3' (SEQ ID NO:6). The expected size of PCR products for human and rat albumin mRNA are 315 and 388 bp, respectively.